

One man
asked
another:
"What
kind of
a music
store is
the
Consolidated
?"

And his
friend
replied
"They sell
the
Steinway
Piano."

Only five words, yet as
forceful in expression and
meaning as five volumes.
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SPONSIBILITY — both
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all those qualifications an
institution must possess
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AMONG THE NEW BOOKS

THE DAY OF GLORY. By Dorothy Canfield, author of "Home Fires in France." Book by courtesy of D. A. Callahan.

The title is taken from that magnificent paean of hope in the Marseillaise—

Allons, enfants de la patrie,
Le Jour de Gloire est arrive!

The article entitled "The Day of Glory" is the last in the book. All the other articles deal with some phase of the war itself. This chapter voices the joy and the new hope of France, especially the women of France, that peace has come.

"If the armistice is signed," said the official communique of "a salvo of cannon from the Invalides at eleven o'clock will announce the end of the war."

The author describes the crowds waiting for the hands of the clock to indicate the hour of eleven. "Then the clock, your heart, all the world, seemed to stand still. The great moment was there. Would the announcing cannon speak? Such a terrible silence as the world kept during that supreme moment of suspense. It was the quintessence of all the moral torture of four nightmare years."

The cannon spoke and then—

"Of all the hundreds of thousands of women who heard those guns, I think there was not one, who did not feel instantly, scalding on her cheeks, the blessed tears—tears of joy. She had forgotten there could be tears of joy. The horrible weight on the soul that had grown to be a part of life dissolved away in the assuaging flood; the horrible constriction around the heart loosened. We wept with all our might; we poured out once for all the old bitterness, the old horror. We felt sanity coming back, and faith and even hope, that forgotten possession of the old days."

The article describes the inspiring scenes around the Strasbourg statue, that memorial of chained Alsace-Lorraine, of the stolen provinces now to be restored.

One of the engaging stories concerns "France's Fighting Woman Doctor," who, though a mistake, was mobilized with the other doctors of France at the beginning of the conflict and who continued to view with them in heroism and sacrifice throughout the struggle.


Dr. Nicole Girard-Mangin braved every peril she was called upon to face, performed every task with unfailing resolution and courage even amid the most appalling dramas of carnage. Her own description of the first days at Verdun when the advanced hospitals and dressing stations were wholly inadequate to care for the wounded is epic. When the crown prince's terrific assaults were at their height the electric lighting system was shattered and the hospital wards, with their shrieking and groaning wounded, were thrown into utter

darkness. For four nights little could be done to assuage the sufferings. It was necessary to await daylight to be even of the slightest service. And finally came the order to evacuate the hospitals, to take the desperately wounded elsewhere.

The last to go—despite the order of the commanding officer—was the woman doctor. She insisted upon her right to remain as the youngest doctor and had her way because the military regulations were on her side. She placed the last few shattered hulks of humanity in a camion which had been left for her use, tied the bodies together and crosswise of the vehicle. Then she ordered the driver to take the most dangerous, but the shortest, road to the nearest hospital that offered a secure refuge. It was on that ride that she received a wound and a scar on her right cheek will be evidence of her courage to her dying day.

In a chapter, entitled "Confused Impressions," the writer tells of her meetings with American soldiers going into action or coming back from the front. She would ask them the naive question, "have you seen active service?" so that they would talk and tell her some of their emotions and experiences. These glimpses into the mind of the American soldiers from all parts of our country are among the most fascinating of the impressions she conveys in this little book. She found a handsome, dashing young southern officer who was so enthused by the joy of battle that he astonished and shocked her and she found a middle-aged volunteer from Maine who told her that the war was a hellish nightmare to him, but added soberly, "It's dirty work, but it's got to be done."

"Home Fires in France" was said by a number of competent critics to be one of the best books on the war, but not having read it I am unable to institute a comparison. The less than 150 pages of the present volume indicates that it is not so pretentious. At all events it is absorbing, dramatic and moving and it possesses a literary quality of distinctive charm.



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